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1 October 1959

NOTE FOR: Mr. Houston

SUBJECT: Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association, 1959

In response to your request, I am submitting the following impressions of the annual meeting of the American Bar Association, which took place in Miami Beach and Bal Harbour at the end of August. My participation in these activities was, for the most part, as one having no professional affiliation in particular. I was several times introduced, and several times greeted while in the company of others, as "with CIA". On these occasions, I saw but variations on two basic reactions: "It's pleasantly surprising to see your organization represented here" and "What's CIA?" On three or four occasions it seemed appropriate to volunteer the information to particular individuals that I was a member of this Office.

I did not participate in any of the essentially institutional activities of the Association or its subdivisions - that is, business meetings, elections, convocations, etc. - choosing to devote my time to the gatherings of either an instructional or social nature. Among the latter were several pleasant dinners and other functions, but in greater number were gatherings mainly emphasizing alcoholic intake and the frenetic dartings of young lawyers apparently making job contacts on a purely numerical basis. Listed below are those of what I have characterized the "instructional" activities which I consider to have been the most interesting.

1. A speech on "Congress and Its Investigators" by Edward Bennett Williams.
2. A discussion of "Lawyers in Politics and Government" - George Abbott, Solicitor at Interior, and David Kendall, Special Counsel to the President.
3. Talks on "Corporate Law Practice and Outside Counsel" by James Ballengee, an attorney with Sears Robuck; Leon Hickman, Vice President and General Counsel of Alcoa and George W. Rauch, Vice President and General Counsel of Greyhound.
4. A luncheon featuring a talk by Dana Latham on current administrative problems of the IRS.
5. A symposium on trade-marks, including a talk by Bob Bicks of the Antitrust Division.

6. Two speeches on recent developments in antitrust law.
7. Remarks on "The Role of the Corporation in Public Affairs" by John S. Tennat, General Counsel, US Steel; William Gossett, Vice President and General Counsel, Ford Motor Company; Leland Hazard, former Vice President and General Counsel, Pittsburgh Plate Glass; Harold C. Lumb, General Counsel, Republic Steel; and Laurence I. Wood, Labor and Government Relations Counsel, General Motors.
8. Discussion of scientific prospects for the next decade by Gen. Bernard Schriever, new Commander of the Air Research and Development Command (at Andrews); Dr. Homer J. Stewart, Director of the Program Planning and Evaluation, NASA; and Dr. Burton F. Miller, Vice President, Thompson, Ramo Wooldridge (whom I always seem to associate with his two "Oscars").
9. Luncheon featuring a speech by Capt. George N. Robillard, just retired Assistant Chief of Naval Research for Patents, on the subject of "Patents Arising from Government-Sponsored Research."
10. A symposium on patents, which unfortunately had mainly to do with antitrust aspects.

Two or three of these speakers made available handouts of their remarks which I thought to be of interest to the Office generally, and these I have put into circulation among the staff.

My over-all impression is that such meetings can be genuinely enriching experiences for the Government lawyer, both in terms of professional association and information acquired. They present an excellent opportunity to size up a great many individuals in a short period of time, though this is limited for the most part to impressions based on brief encounters. But even this superficial knowledge can be useful, if for no other reason than to identify in ones mind persons who are repositories of information on a particular subject in which we might be interested.

You may be interested in my exchange of pleasantries with General Schriever, Dr. Miller of Ramo, Jim Bierbower, Harold Green, Judges Letts, Holtzoff and Munter, Robert L. Wright, Chief Counsel of the Patent Trade-mark and Copyright Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Mr. Latham.

Office of General Counsel

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